

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith. The present After-Final Amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application and does not require further search.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 2, 4, and 10 are pending in this application. Claims 2 and 4, which are independent, have been amended. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements 35 U.S.C. §112. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 2, 4, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0080533 to Ozue, et al.

Independent claim 2 now recites, *inter alia*:

"...wherein said surface is a smooth flat surface placed within a cylindrical drum surface, and

wherein a head gap is placed in a range where a magnetic tape is close to a minimum distance capable of producing mutual magnetic recording..."
(Emphasis Added)

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As understood by Applicants, U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0080533 to Ozue, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Ozue") relates to a magneto-resistance effect type magnetic head used as a magnetic tape reproducing head that reduces contact noise.

Applicants respectfully submit that nothing has been found in Ozue that would teach or suggest the above-identified feature of independent claim 2. Therefore, claim 2 is patentable.

For reasons similar or somewhat similar to those described above, claim 4 is believed to be distinguishable from Ozue.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

Claim 10 is dependent from amended independent claim 2 discussed above and is therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of the statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate the portion or portions of the reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

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Respectfully submitted,
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